

A PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The high price of meat to the man who buys it from the retail dealer and the low price paid to the cattle dealer and farmer by the packers have reminded consumers and producers again of the advantages of a public abattoir. The producers have been driven into a pen or chutes like those the management of the stock yards erect for the cattle. Out of these pens there is a wide opening into an alley which rapidly converges. The cattle unsuspiciously take this wide opening, other animals follow them until the foremost are pushed into double file and then into single file. The crowding is uncomfortable, but the steer in the lead yields to the pressure of the push behind and to get more room walks up to the man with the sledge hammer. The hammer falls on the steer's temple and he drops dead. The object lesson of the stock yards and the slaughter of their four-footed occupants has been incorporated into the system developed by the packers.

The farmer and stock raiser has been forced to sell exclusively to the stock yards. The retail butcher, who used to kill his own animals which he bought from the farmers and stockmen in his own region is now forced to buy his meat exclusively of the packers. The history of getting the retail butchers into the first pen is a long one and took several years to accomplish. The butchers who refused to buy their meat of Armour or Swift or Cudahy, or one of the other packers were forced to yield to a competition whose continuance would drive them out of business. There is no question but that in the old way of isolated slaughtering there was great economic waste of material. Hoofs, hair, marrow, bones, blood and horns were thrown out as waste material. Now they are valuable by-products of slaughtering. But in the days when farmer and butcher slaughtered their own meat

the farmer and butcher were content with a modest profit. The packer, who saves or sells every part of a beef animal demands a larger margin than ever the butcher and stock dealer asked. But having entered the pen prepared for him by the packer, the butcher cut himself off from the stock dealer and the farmer from whom he was in the habit of buying bunches of cattle. He could only buy from the packers and when the few packers made an agreement to sell meat at a certain price the butcher has no recourse and the consumer pays the difference, though the butcher makes no larger profit than he did before the plot succeeded. The perfecting of their plans has taken years. The arrangement is four-sided; it includes the butchers, the consumers, the stock dealers and the packers. An understanding, concerted action and good faith among the packers themselves are necessary to the success of the conspiracy which has absorbed the margin of profit that belongs to the farmer and the retail butcher.

The butcher, the consumer and the stock dealer are in the pen which has only one opening and that one leads into the slaughter house where the man with the steel mallet stands and strikes the endless procession dead. Like cattle, the producer, butcher and consumer have been driven into the pen and each individual recognizes the object of good faith when he sees the man with the hammer and hears the dead fall of the one ahead of him. The aggregate of cattle killed a day in the Chicago packing houses is thousands; but each animal has one moment of agony when he sees the man with the hammer and realizes why he has been crowded up to that point. The individual pays the price and the tyranny of the packers and their enormous profits will be uninterrupted as long as the individual continues to walk into the pen the packers have built for him.—Lincoln (Neb.) News.

The A, B Cs of the Far East

What is the trouble in the far east? Japan is trying to keep Russia out of Korea.

What is Korea and where is it situated?

Korea is an autocracy under Japanese influence, about as large as Kansas with a population estimated at between 8,000,000 and 16,000,000. The empire occupies a peninsula just south of Siberia, jutting into the Pacific ocean between the Yellow sea and the Sea of Japan, and reaching within less than 100 miles of the southern end of Japan.

Is Korea a rich country?

Not especially. It is a purely agricultural land and the methods of cultivation are primitive. A few gold mines are operated and there are supposed to be deposits of copper, iron and coal.

Why, then, does Russia want Korea?

Chiefly because of its position. Korea is an extension of Manchuria which practically belongs to Russia. In the natural development of contiguous territory Russian merchants have crossed the boundary into Korea and Russian interests accumulating there under the weak native government naturally look to the czar for protection.

Why is Korea of strategic value to Russia?

For two reasons. First, Russian vessels must make a long detour around Korea to pass from Vladivostok, Siberia, to Port Arthur, the Russian harbor in Manchuria. In this journey they must traverse a narrow strait between Korea and a Japanese island, comparable to Gibraltar. To insure free passage Russia seeks to

control the end of the Korean peninsula. Second, when Russia begins its anticipated absorption of China it would be inconvenienced if a hostile power should have a military base on the northeastern coast of Asia. Therefore it desires to annex Korea.

Why does Japan object to the Russian annexation of Korea?

Because Japan is overcrowded, with a population twelve times as dense as that of the United States, and it seeks an outlet for its emigrants on the mainland. The island empire has hoped, too, to make Korea the base of an attempt to extend Japanese influence throughout China. Furthermore, it now conducts nine-tenths of Korea's commerce and owns Korea's two railways. Its trade and railways would both be threatened and probably be deprived of value in the event of Russia's success. And, finally, Japan holds that its own independence would be menaced were Russia to gain the harbor at the end of the Korean peninsula almost within cannon range of the Japanese island fortress of Tsushima.

Does Japan want to annex Korea?

No. It is satisfied to maintain Korea's sovereignty with the expectation that its natural advantages of situation will give it the lion's share of Korean trade.

When did the trouble between Japan and Russia begin?

It began in 1895, when by war Japan had forced China to recognize Korea's independence and to grant Japan the southern end of Manchuria. Russia forced Japan to give up Manchuria, seized the surrendered terri-

tory and secured a timber cutting concession in the Yalu valley in Korea.

What brought on the present crisis?

Last year Russia advanced the claim that the timber concession extends to the valleys of all rivers tributary to the Yalu and that it gives the Russians the right to build railways and to monopolize the port of Yungampho at the Yalu's mouth.

Did Russia announce its intention to annex Korea?

It did not. But Japan took the ground that its procedure meant virtual annexation and so issued a protest.

Is this likely to lead to war?

Japan says it will unless Russia recedes from its claims.—Kansas City Star.

Additional News Notes.

It was reported from Kansas City on January 21 that a number of small independent slaughter houses in that city will be forced to suspend operations unless they are able to secure government inspection of their meats. Applications for government inspection had been made by some of these smaller concerns.

In a speech made by R. B. Prebel, president of the Chicago Medical society, on January 21, in reference to the high prices of anti-toxin, he announced that he would appoint a committee to make a complete report of the facts and to start a movement toward the manufacture of anti-toxin by the United States government.

Great snowfalls were reported on January 21 from different sections of the country, the states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio suffering from the snowfall, which in some places is causing much damage. Ice gorges have been formed in many rivers and it is feared that the floods resulting therefrom will cause much property loss.

A mysterious robbery was committed on January 21 on one of the Southern Pacific's trains between San Luis Obispo and San Ardo in California, when a safe estimated to have contained valuables to the amount of \$80,000 was taken from the express car.

According to recent Chicago reports the Iroquois club in that city, whose membership includes many prominent Chicago democrats, are preparing to boom General Nelson A. Miles for president on the democratic ticket this year. The Iroquois club is one

of the leading democratic organizations of the west.

A tornado that swept over Moundville, Ala., on January 22 caused the death of twenty-eight persons and more than 100 were injured. The town contained about 300 inhabitants and it is said that it is almost entirely destroyed. The town of Birmingham, Ala., was also struck by the tornado and many buildings demolished.

The Holland society of New York held its annual dinner January 21. More than 400 members and guests were present. The toasts included: "Peace," William J. Bryan; "Holland, Our Ally in the Revolution," Rev. George C. Lorimer; "The Friendly Relations of the Dutch With Other Nations," Sir Chen Tung Liang Chang; "Our Hero Ancestors," James M. Book.

The Chicago Record-Herald of Thursday, January 21, said: Dr. Herman Edouard von Holst, the renowned historian, scholar and independent political fighter of America and Germany, who was the first professor and head of the department of history at the university of Chicago, died yesterday at Freiburg in Baden. The announcement of his death, which has been expected for several years, was received at 4 o'clock by President W. R. Harper in a cablegram from Mrs. Isabelle von Holst, which said: "My husband passed away quietly this afternoon."

Western New York has, during the last few days, experienced such changes in meteorological conditions as to cause the greatest alarm to the residents of low-lying districts owing to the danger of floods. Every flood district of the western part of the state is threatened with serious disaster. Heavy snowfalls and rains throughout parts of Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania have caused many rivers to overflow and it is feared that before the floods subside much property loss may be sustained.

The Russo-Japanese negotiations are still progressing and it is now regarded almost as certain the war will not be declared. It was reported from London on January 22 that Russia has agreed to Japan's terms regarding the integrity of Korea and that the only question at issue now relates to Manchuria. It is said that some of the best and strongest men in the Russian empire have been set to work on the negotiations with Japan and this is taken as an indication that Russia desires peace.



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